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AFFILIATED CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO
STATION W6OTX

VOL. XVIII

1974

PARA GRAPHS

PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

MENLO PARK CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

May 74

PAARAGRAPHS -- the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc., and the Menlo Park CD Radio Club.

VOLUME 18

No. 5

May 1974 (egad!)

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 V. Pres. Mike Eccles G3PPE/W6
 Sect'y: Hal Moore W6DEF
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Editor-in-Chief: Richard Ferranti WA6NCX

Cover Design: B. Rapp

Mailing: Ed Fairbanks and his band of very hard workers
 Chief printing engineer and razzer: Guido J. Ferranti
 *****-----*****-----*****

POLICIES: Membership includes subscription to PAARAGRAPHS
 (reason enough to join!)

Annual dues are an el cheapo \$4.00.

Subscription to PAARAGRAPHS is a mere \$1.00 a year
 NO loot, NO PAARAGRAPHS!!

Dues are on a calendar year basis.

SEND all negotiables (Cash, cheques, silver dollars, pennies,
 wooden nickles, three-dollar bills, etc.) TO:
 PAARA BOX 911 MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

*****-----*****-----*****

WANT TO GET YOUR NAME IN THE PAPER??? SEND ME Something!!
 Anything newsworthy -- latest projects, funny happenings,
 letters, articles, complaints, old magazines or parts,
 gasoline, nasty comments, old girlfriends (!) or...?? TO:

Rick Ferranti WA6NCX 1234 Santa Cruz Avenue
 Menlo Park, California. 94025. 415-324-1539

GET ACTIVE IN PAARA -- PARTICIPATE!!!!

Board of Directors

Chairman: Fred Canham K6YT
 Sect'y: Hal Moore W6DEF
 Members: Paul Thekan (NC)
 Andy Korsak VE3FZK/W6
 Terry Conboy WB6GRZ
 Ed Fairbanks W6AIN
 Tom Ohlsson WB6KQZ

PAARA PICKIN'S -- ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, LOTSA GOODIES

OUR NEXT MEETING is on the first Friday of the month, on May 3, 1974 at 7:30 PM in the Menlo Park Recreation Center, near the library and the Police station.

Program: Lambert Dolphin , of the Radio Physics Lab at Stanford Research Institute, will speak on à spark-gap sounder system. This is an interesting device similar to a very low-frequency radar sounder system. Uses pulses of very short duration for detection purposes. Come learn about this new and important radio-type device.

Coffee -- donuts -- eyeball QSO's -- raffle -- gonk

The illimitable Board Of Directors meets on Wednesday, May 8, 1974, at 7:30 PM in the medieval W6OTX trailer in SRI's parking lot. All members welcome to pitch in their two bits. Any greater amount should be pitched in the direction of the editor!

-----*****-----

FLASH!!!! EDITOR QUILTS!!!! -- Yes, OM's and YL's ye olde harried editor will hang up the proverbial towel if more people don't get on the PAARA NET. We meet every Monday nite at 8:15 or so on 145.24mHz plus or minus a little bit. AM, of course. Do you want to see PAARAGRAPHS relegated to the scrapheap of mediocrity? (never mind about its present status!) Do you want to see if ye editor will ever learn how to (a) spell or (b) type??? Then come join the rag-chew on Monday and have a good time with PAARA!!!!

-----*****-----

Do you have any novice-type equipment (remember they can use VFO's now) which is just sitting around collecting dust or icky spiders? If you have a decent little transmitter or receiver and want to sell, trade, or loan it to get a new novice (redundant?) started -- call good old Fred Canham, K6YT, 948-9238. The Emarc group at foothill has quite a class going for novices-- again contact Fred for all juicy and/or dry details.

MORE PAARA PICKIN'S --- SELL, WANTED, INFORMATION

SELL: Knight T-150B xmtr, 150 watts, 80-10 w/VFO.
Knight R-100A rcvr, vibroplex butterfingers bug,
package deal great for novices \$100.00 takes it.
Call Ron Teel at 493-2376.

*****-----*****-----*****-----*****

FOR SALE Collins S-Line

32S-1 trans., 75S-3 rdvr., 516-F AC supply, 312-B
station control, SM-3 desk mike. All must be sold
together, price is yours to quote--no reasonable offer
refused. Call Jim Moroney, WN6CRN, 948-7489, or
948-6697, or at office: 245-5905.

FOR SALE: Collins 32V-1 Transmitter -- \$65.00 with spare
final tube.

(the editor pauses to put his eyeballs back in after that
incredibly low price)

AND Johnson Valiant II transmitter, Factory
wired, sold for new at 500.00\$125.00
275 watts CW or AM like new condx.

Both great deals from: Paul Giganti, W6GVY
2429 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, California 94070

*****-----*****-----*****-----*****

Ed Fairbanks tells us to all start practicing losing sleep
for 1974 Field Day coming up. Being a student already
qualifies ye editor. There are lots of ways to get ready!

*****-----*****-----*****

Like to dabble in gambling -- and still be a sure-
fire winner? And have fun? How about running the raffle
at our stimulating meetings? Don't be shy -- volunteer: or
at least talk it over. It takes very little time and you
get to choose the prizes. Don't wait to be appointed --
just let an officer know and you're signed up!

*****-----*****-----*****

Send us your \$\$\$ and pay your dues!!!! We can't buck
inflation forever!!!

REPORT of the Board of Directors Meeting April 10, 1974.

Fred Canham K6YT called the meeting to order at 2000 hours local time with Terry Conboy, WB6GRZ, Mike Eccles, G3PPE/W6, Bob Baum W6BFH, and Hal Moore W6DEF present.

Discussion at long length: Field Day 1974. The Board of Directors decided that because of the lack of manpower available there would only be two high-frequency stations operating.

We would like to again use the hilltop site off La Loma Drive and Hal Moore has been given the delightful chore of obtaining permission from the L.B. Nelson Development Company. Hal will let us know when his query gets through all the red tape.

May 4 is the next Walk-A-Thon. Fred made a list of those available so that PAARA can be well-represented at this worthwhile public service activity.

Meeting closed at about 2130 local time.

Our newest member is J. Neville Shore, Sr., K6OYN. He has held the calls of W6HNB, K6GCX, and W3RKR. He is Radio Officer in the Merchant Marine. "Jay" Neville Shore, Jr., is the other ham in the family, whose call is WB6LVP.

The Northern California Net, part of the National Traffic System, is quite busy right now. The recent tornadoes in the mid-west is a partial cause for the increase. Frequency is 3630 kHz and times are 0200Z for the regular session and 0330Z for the Slow Speed Training Session. Join 'em.

73 Hal, W6DEF, E.C.

*****-----*****-----*****

THINK METRIC!!--The metric system, being inevitable, as must be obvious to everyone by now, behooves us all to learn and relearn a few things. For instance:

--A miss is as good as 1.609 kilometers

--Take it with a decigram of salt.

--28.350 grams of prevention are worth 453.59237 grams of cure.

--Peter Piper picked 8.81 liters of pickle peppers.

--And how about a girl who measures .9144, .6604, .9144???

---de CHEWED RAG Feb. 74

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND TO PAARA

Dear Fellow members:

It is with sincere appreciation of the fun and fellowship in our club that I write the following.

It is time PAARA recognized the changing times. The ham world has jumped ahead of us and is rapidly leaving PAARA in a wake of backward obscurity. The same foot-dragging thinking existed in the 50's concerning the change from AM to SSB. Some of this thinking prevails in our club today. Some of our leaders are sitting on their haunches waiting for someone to give us an FM transceiver. For those who don't know, this is how PAARA began on SSB. Yes, that is correct -- we had to accept a donation of the Swan 350 before we could get on SSB. Hence we didn't get on SSB in the 1950's, not even in the 1960's. We waited until the early 1970's for a donation before our club obtained an SSB station. We call ourselves a public service organization but if we want to communicate with people outside our clique we have to use the land-line or SSB. Repeaters and FM are here to stay. Drum-beating, flag-waving, and 2 meter AM are fading into history along with homemade butter, the milkman, and 25¢ haircuts. Our club should lead us into new and exciting facets of amateur radio and public service instead of gasping behind in the gasp of progress. As in the AM to SSB transition some of our members have recognized the failing and/or have left the fold to advance to FM. Others use FM most of the time but retain two-meter AM for the Monday nite net. But still others, like some of our leaders, ignore change, deny progress, and loudly expound on the old ways. "It is good enough for Pappy so it's good enough for me" -- I say this is ridiculous. The advantages of 2 meter FM are many. For example, think of the mobility and versatility of a 2 meter FM portable (over the shoulder) rig at a fire, airplane crash, earthquake, stadium, parade, etc.

Even if VHF is not one's "bag" we are all aware that if amateurs were not public-service orientated they could not retain allocated frequencies. Helping people is our
Con't next page.....

LETTER con't...

forte. Hence we should change to FM even if some of us don't plan to participate in the VHF facet of our hobby.

Recognizing that change requires reorganization of thinking and billfold, I suggest we form a plan which will culminate with a change of our two-meter Monday night net from 2 meters AM to 2 meters FM on Monday 5 May 1975 (one year from now). Further suggest that the club buy a 2 meter FM handheld portable xcvr and a 2 meter FM base/mobile station by 1 August 1974 to handle emergencies, enhancing the 1 year transition to FM,

So whether you are "fur or agin" let's hear from you. But remember even if the consensus is pro there is considerable calcification at the top and it won't be easy to chip away at the retarded resistance to change.

73's

Jerry Starkey WA6LIJ

(Ed.'s note: Jerry open up a very pressing issue -- I would very much like more letters on the subject, both pro and con -- what do you think???)

-----*****-----*****-----

CW Bulletins from W6ZRJ:

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM on 3590kHz
SSB at 8:30 PM on 3815 kHz., RTTY at 9:00 PM at 3615 kHz.

*****-----*****-----

CODE PRACTICE TIMES AND FREQUENCIES:

DON JOHNSON, W6QIE, continues to give the best code practice in the area. He's on for about an hour and a half, every night except Mondays.

Code starts at 8 PM local time with 15 minutes of 5 wpm and ten minutes each of 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 25, and 30 (whew!) wpm. Frequency is 3590 kHz. Be there!

-----*****-----*****-----

JOIN AND GET ACTIVE IN PAARA --- HAVE FUN

MORE_MISC._ANNOUNCEMENTS_

Remember our visit to the Stanford Big Dish in Aug 1972??

Remember how we drooled over such a wonderful intr location? Well, K6JTO and WB6KAP will use the Big Dish for 144 mHz moon-bounce tests! (per QST, April '74, pg. 85). Something was mentioned about Faraday rotating, but that got by me!

666 666 666 666

For you QRP and mobile fans (fiends?) the August 1973 QST (pg. 46) give the dope on a 12 volt solid gel rechargeable small battery -- in case you missed it. Size 2½ X 6 X 4 inches (not centimeters!).

de W6AIN.....

*****-----*****-----*****

The Foothill College Radio Club will have a Flea market sale on Saturday, May 18.

*****-----*****-----*****

Excerpt from a kind letter:

"...thanks so all the very thoughtful members who were so kind as to send me "GET WELL" cards. They were more than appreciated. When you are flat on your back such thoughtfulness is so meaningful that it is hard to say just what an uplift they give you! Also the gang who sent messages on SET. I got a lot of them and they give me a psychological uplift that made it almost worthwhile to lay there and imagine all the activity going on. I'm surely going to be set for the next one!"

Give my very best to all the gang.

73, Vance Wardlow, W6FLE

Thanks much to you too -- very glad you're feeling better!

*****-----*****-----*****

OVERHEARD ON THE W6CX REPEATER: If you terminate a QSO, you are terminated. Right? But peter Strauss asks: "If you then start to transmit again, does that mean that you are an ex-terminated person?" de MDARC CARRIER.

NEW ADDRESS for FARS -- W6OCP, 716 Central Avenue,
Menlo Park, California, 94025

*****-----*****-----*****

PAARA IS WHERE ALL THE ACTION BEGINS

9
FROM OUR EMERGENCY COODINATOR, HAL, W6DEF

The Northern California Net is part of the National Traffic System. We Convene every evening at 1900 local time and again at 2030 local time on 3630 kHz CW. W6RFF of Los Altos had been originating messages lately from a representative of the Office of Emergency Preparedness addressed to county officials. The County repeater K6QFO was used in one instance for delivering to a County Official. These are useful messages with valuable information. (In fact ALL of the messages handled by the NCN are valuable in that they give us practice, regardless of the contents of the messages.)

A report had it that certain traffic originated during the Simulated Emergency test was not delivered. Perhaps it wasn't handled properly because it got to the mid-west after the SET was over and the person who got it considered it of no consequence. If so, he was NOT a traffic ham. EVERY message we receive is of consequence and great effort must be made for delivery to the addressee or else a "service message" is sent back to the originating station stating the reason why it wasn't delivered.

We used to have a booth at the San Mateo County Fair but the past few years a lack of interest has bee shown in such things. It requires a group of hams interested in originating and handling traffic to make a success of such an undertaking. IF such an interest is revived locally an attempt will be made to do this public service demonstration thing again. Give me the word.

Best regards,
Hal, W6DEF, E.C.

Speaking of our EC, Hal goes into the hospital shortly for a couple of operations and we all wish him best of luck that all turns out well....

-----*****-----
If money could talk, it would ask: "What Happened?" MDARC CARRIER

Okay two-meter fans -- here's a great antenna ----

5/8ths_WAVE_EASY_TO_DO_ANTENNA_THAT_WORKS

Designed by Mike Bach, WB6FFC and proof run by Jerry Laxton, WA6OPA. Jerry says that all credit goes to Mike for the design -- Jerry built one himself and wrote this up for PAARAGRAPHS.

MATERIALS

Aluminum or metal plate 4 X 8 inches

Stand-off insulator

Four 23-inch aluminum tubes -- mine came off an old TV antenna.

One 37-39 inch tube.

One coaxial fitting

One mast clamp

10 inches No. 12 wire.

Bend metal plate at right angles two inches from end.

Drill the small bend for the mast clamp.

Drill the ends of the 23-inch tubes so they can be bolted to the plate with 21 inches extending past the plate to form a cross.

Bolt the insulator and the coax fitting to the plate. Now cut the long tube to the desired $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength for the frequency desired. (The wire, added next, extends this to $\frac{5}{8}$ wave).

Fasten short length of wire to bottom of tube; form in a circle around the insulator and solder to the inner conductor contact of the coaxial connector.

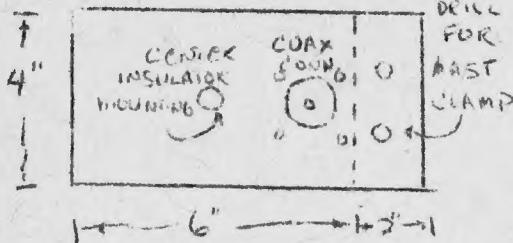
Adjust for lowest SWR by pruning the length of the wire, then clamp to the mast.

As with all antennas, the higher you put it up, the better it will work. This is a very simple way to bolster your signal on two -- 5/8 is better than the old $\frac{1}{4}$ wave groundplane!!!

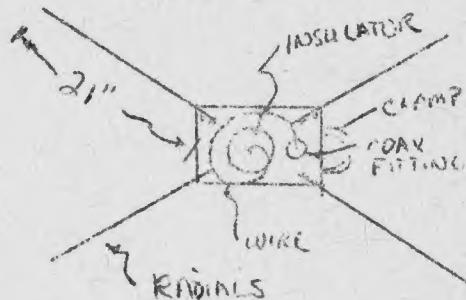
11

$\frac{5}{8} \lambda$ TWO METER ANTENNA PLAN

BASE PLATE

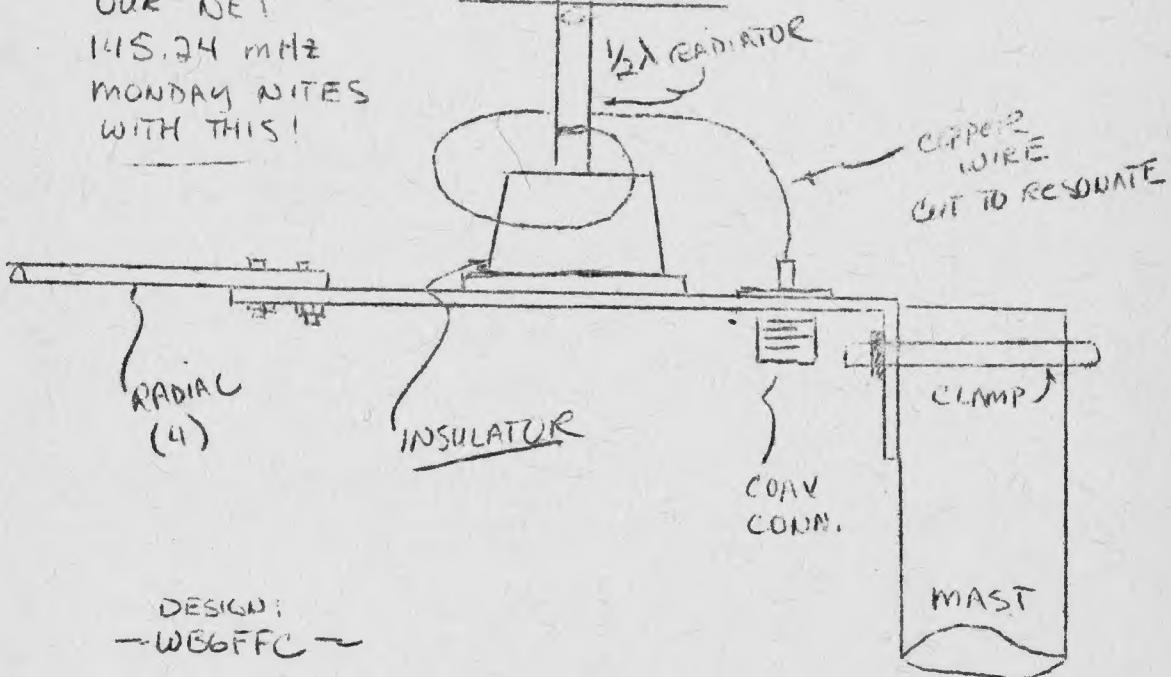


TOP VIEW

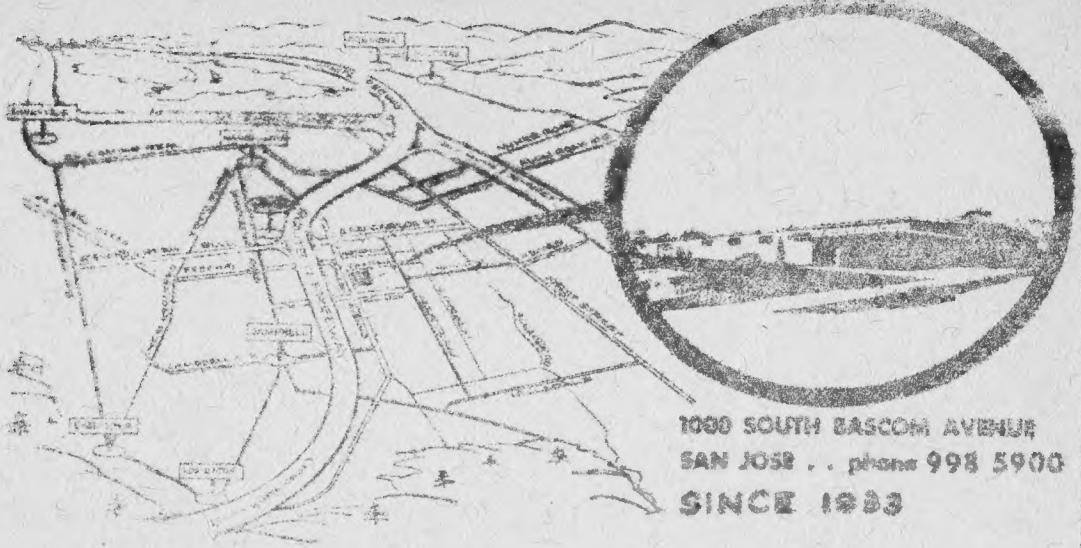


P.S. - GET ON
OUR NET
145.24 MHz
MONDAY NITES
WITH THIS!

SIDE VIEW



DESIGN:
-WB6FFC -



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